

CLARK COUNTY CLEAN WATER COMMISSION

Meeting Notes

Wednesday, February 5, 2003

6:00 – 8:00 PM

Clark County Public Works Department

Conference Room

4700 NE 78th Street

Vancouver, WA

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Present

Cal Ek, Anne Jackson, Dana Kemper, Mary Martin, Don Steinke, Susan Rassmussen, Judy Schramm, Art Stubbs and Virginia van Breemen

Clark County Clean Water Commission Members Absent

Robert Agard

Clark County Public Works Staff

Earl Rowell and Cindy Stienbarger

Audience

Kate Fulton, Norm Fulton, and Bill Owen

Call to Order

Introduction

The members of the Clark County Clean Water Commission, and Clark County staff were introduced. The meeting was then called to order.

Agenda and material review

The material for the meeting include:

1. 2/5/03 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting Agenda.
2. 12/4/02 Clark County Clean Water Commission meeting notes.
3. 1/8/03 Clark County Clean Water Commission work session notes.
4. Preliminary Draft Clark County Clean Water Commission 2002 Annual Report
5. Watershed Stewards Program 2002 Annual Report.

Election of 2003 Chair and Vice Chair

Ms. Rassmussen and Mr. Steinke were nominated to fill the position of Chair of the Clean Water Commission for 2003. By a margin of four to three, Ms. Rassmussen was elected Chair of the Clean Water Commission.

Mr. Stubbs and Mr. Steinke were nominated to fill the position of Vice Chair of the Clean Water Commission for 2003. By a margin of four to one, Mr. Stubbs was elected Vice Chair.

12/4/2002 meeting notes

The 12/4/2002 Clean Water Commission meeting notes were approved as written.

On behalf of Clark County staff, Mr. Rowell acknowledged the terms and the work of Mr. Ek and Mr. Kemper.

Communications with the public, media, and/or agencies

Mr. Rowell noted that staff will be working with Ms. Susan Finch, Public Works Public Information Officer, regarding possibly placing paid advertisements in the local newspapers when making announcements about Clean Water Commission meeting locations and Agenda items.

Public Comments

Mr. Fulton explained that he and his wife were there to learn more about the Clean Water Program.

Mr. Owen wanted to know if the County was going to use their GIS capabilities to better define each parcels impermeable surface to refine the stormwater fees. And if there will there be an opportunity for businesses to have an incentive to monitor their own BMP's to receive a reduction on their Clean Water Fee.

Mr. Rowell stated that the County uses aerial photography, to determine impervious surface area on parcels in Clark County. There are occasions in which staff is sent out to parcels to better define the impervious surface area on particular parcels.

Mr. Kemper replied that the Clean Water Commission has worked, in the past, to develop an incentive for Commercial and Industrial businesses in which they would monitor their own wastewater, stormwater and BMP's. The framework has been set up however it has not been implemented.

Watershed Stewards Program Update

Ms. Stienbarger discussed the Watershed Stewards 2002 Annual Report with the Commissioners. In 2002 a total of 30 people were trained as Watershed Stewards which brings the total number of volunteers to 72. There were 1404 hours of accounted donated time, though many Stewards donate their time at events and do not turn in their hours. The value of this time equates to approx. \$22,500 worth of services. In 2002 it is estimated that the Stewards contacted over 16,000 individuals.

Ms. Stienbarger noted the significant increase in volunteers and volunteer activity since the beginning of the program in 1999.

Mr. Ek asked if there have been any studies that show that these contacts result in positive behavioral changes. How many times does an individual need to be contacted for it to make a change in their life?

Ms. Stienbarger replied that the county has not done any surveys, and that this is an issue that all outreach programs face. It is considered that the more time a person hears a message the more effective it will be.

Ms. Martin asked if the Watershed Stewards had any contact with the Girl Scouts and other similar groups.

Ms. Stienbarger replied that staff has and will continue to use the Girl Scouts and other groups like this for the stenciling program. Ms. Stienbarger also stated that she is in preliminary discussions with 4-H groups about possibly developing an environmental/BMP project that kids could participate in, without leaving their particular group. There are many kids involved in 4-H that work with animals, over 400 work with the horses alone.

Ms. Martin asked if we could do something as simple as a walk and knock? They can go door to door and hand them a simple flyer that says "Don't wash your car in the driveway?" Just focus on one issue.

Ms. Stienbarger replied that she is concerned with safety regarding sending kids door to door. There would need to be some more research before authorizing this type of program. We do have door hangers that we utilize with the stenciling program and we give them to the volunteers to hang on doorknobs in the areas that the volunteers are stenciling.

Mr. Kemper added that the Scouts have community service awards they have to earn and troop leaders are always looking for opportunities for their scouts to earn them.

Ms. Steinbarger noted that the county has handed out badges that were authorized by the Scouting council for doing volunteer community service projects.

Mr. Rowell remarked that there is a variety of information that talks about things people can do to get the word out for example, Mr. Armstrong is looking at ways to address the car wash issue.

Ms. Martin replied that maybe the Commissioners should focus on one thing for a year.

Ms. Stienbarger pointed out that it is similar to what the Regional Coalition for Clean River and Streams does. They started with the slogan "The River starts here". This year the focus will be on lawns.

Mr. Stienke agreed with Ms. Martin and suggested that the Commissioners should pick a list of ten most important things a homeowner could do and pick one each year as our goal.

Ms. Jackson asked if County staff was participating in the Portland Home and Garden Show this weekend?

Ms. Stienbarger stated that staff would be participating in the Clark County Home and Garden Show, which takes place the last weekend in April.

Preliminary Rough Draft CWC Annual Report to the BOCC

Mr. Rowell reviewed the preliminary rough draft 2002 Annual Report. Mr. Rowell asked Commissioners to e-mail their comments to him so he can incorporate those suggestions into Annual Report.

Mr. Kemper asked Mr. Rowell for an update on providing money to the Clark Conservation district to use for the Envirothon.

Mr. Rowell replied that \$1600 dollars has been set aside to give to the Conservation district for the Envirothon.

Mr. Rowell stated that Mr. Giese is open to having the Clean Water Commissioners ride along with him to see what he does in the field and what the CIP staff members are working on.

Motion 02-2003-01 Mr. Stubbs: I move that this Commission recognize with commendations Cal Ek, Robert Agard and our past chairman Dana Kemper for the work that they have done on the Clean Water Commission.

Motion passed by all present Clean Water Commissioners.

Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held on May 5, 2003, 6:30 p.m., Clark County Public Works Operations Conference Room, 4700 NE 78th Street

Adjourn

The Clean Water Commission meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Respectively Submitted,

Kelli Frost